THE

Board of Trade Journal.

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The price of the "Board of Trade Journal" will be Threepence per number from the beginning of next year.

The Offices of the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade are at **73, Basinghall Street,** London, E.C. — registered telegraphic address, "**Advantage, London,**" telephone number **12807 Central.** A statement of the objects and work of the Branch will be found on p. 490.

The attention of British traders is directed to the Sample Room, where the following are on view, among other exhibits:—

Samples.	Reference in "Board of Trade Journal."	
	Date.	Page.
Sundry fibres from Mexico	15th Nov., 1906	325
Hosiery Yarn and Guayule Rubber from Mexico ...	" " "	325
Wild cotton from Hayti	" " "	320
Sardines tinned at Santander	8th Nov., "	279
Vegetable Fibres from Chungking	1st Nov., "	225
Sweaters, of German make, used by the Chinese	11th Oct., "	56
Japanese Paper, Flannelette and Cottons sold in Corea ...	13th Sept., "	512
Specimens of Chinese Padlocks and Keys	9th Aug., "	255
Foreign Cotton Goods sold at Tangier	12th July, "	58
Cotton grown in Natal	" " "	82
Tin of United States Enamel Paint sold in Peru	5th " "	10
Foreign Flannelette sold at Erzeroum	" " "	35
American Cottons sold at Chinkiang (small cuttings) ...	28th June, "	637
List of Chinese written characters suitable for novelties for the Chinese market	" " "	621
Specimen of Chinese Students' uniform	31st May, "	407
Cotton grown in Spain	24th " "	382
Zapupe fibre from Mexico	17th " "	324
Guatemala cotton said to be weevil-resisting	19th April "	128
Cotton cloth manufactured at Ichang	" " "	126
Raw Argentine cotton, bobbins of yarn and patterns of knitted material from Buenos Ayres	5th " "	36

The following Special Trade Enquiry Offices are also at 73, Basinghall Street, E.C.:—India, Dominion of Canada, Queensland, Cape of Good Hope, Transvaal and Orange River Colony. Statements of the objects and work of these Enquiry Offices will be found on p. 491.

OPENINGS FOR BRITISH TRADE.

BRITISH INDIA.

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS: INDIA OFFICE.

Railway Material.

The Secretary of State for India in Council is prepared to receive tenders from such persons as may be willing to supply—1. Wheels and Axles. 2. Coach Screws for Rails. The conditions of contract may be obtained on application to the Director-General of Stores, India Office, Whitehall, S.W., and tenders are to be delivered at that Office by 2 p.m. on Tuesday, the 18th December, 1906, for No. 1, and on Tuesday, the 11th December, 1906, for No. 2, after which times respectively no tender will be received.

Railway Material, Leather Belting, Coke, and Tools.

The Directors of the Bombay, Baroda, and Central India Railway are prepared to receive up to noon on Tuesday, 11th December, tenders for the supply of the following stores:—

Class A.—(1) Wheels and axles for carriages and wagons; (2) Steel plates for boilers; (3) Red and white lead; (4) Leather belting, hides, &c.; (5) Foundry coke.

Class B.—(1) Beater picks. phowrahs and shovels.

Tenders must be made on forms, copies of which with specifications, can be obtained at the Company's Offices, Gloucester House, 2, 3, and 4, Bishopsgate Street Without, London, E.C., on payment as follows:—For Class A, 21*s.* each; and for Class B, 10*s.* 6*d.* each (which will not be returned). The Directors do not bind themselves to accept the lowest or any tender.

Steam Coal.

The Directors of the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway Company are also prepared to receive, up to noon on Wednesday, the 12th December, tenders for the supply in Bombay of 7,000 tons best South Wales steam coal of one of the following varieties, viz.:—Ferndale, Albion, Insole's Cymmer, Nixon's Navigation, Powell Duffryn, or National Merthyr.

The coal is to be in all cases of the best quality mined, to be shipped under inspection on behalf of the Company, and to be delivered in Bombay by the 7th March next.

Tenders must be made on forms to be obtained at the offices of the Company, Gloucester House, Bishopsgate Street Without, London, E.C., and must quote prices in Indian currency per ton delivered. Payment will be made only in Bombay, and for the quantity delivered there, and, if not all shipped in one vessel, as follows, viz.:—90 per cent. on each cargo on completion of discharge, and the remaining 10 per cent. on due completion of the contract.

The Directors reserve the right of dividing the contract between any two or more tendering firms, and do not bind themselves to accept the lowest or any tender.

N.B.—Other conditions being equal, preference will be given to tenders naming average discharge at Bombay at a rate not exceeding 500 tons per lawful working day.

Openings for British Trade.

CANADA.

Commercial Enquiries.

The following commercial enquiries have been received at the **Canadian Government Offices, 17, Victoria Street, London, S.W.**, whence further information regarding them may be obtained:—

Home Enquiries.—A London firm in the paint, colour and varnish trade contemplate appointing agents in different parts of Canada, and are desirous of hearing from persons who are in a position to entertain such business.

A London firm manufacturing bronze powder, gold, silver and metal leaf, gold paint, &c., ask to be placed in communication with leading manufacturers of post cards in the Dominion.

A London firm manufacturing a soluble coffee preparation are desirous of extending their Canadian connexions.

Enquiry is made by an English firm respecting a Canadian automatic labelling machine suitable for labelling 1 oz. oval, 2 oz., 4 oz., 8 oz., and 16 oz. oblong tins.

A London firm ask to be placed in communication with Canadian firms manufacturing purified wood alcohol which they are in a position to import in large quantities.

Canadian Enquiry.—A Toronto firm importing grocers' specialities are seeking the agency for an English manufacturer requiring representation in all the Provinces of the Dominion.

Note.—For further information regarding any of the above, application should be made to the High Commissioner for Canada, 17, Victoria Street, S.W.

The following commercial enquiries have been received at the **Canadian Government City Trade Branch, 73, Basinghall Street, E.C.**, whence further information regarding them may be obtained:—

Home Enquiries.—A commission firm in Jersey are desirous of representing a Canadian shipper of dairy produce, bacon, eggs and fruit.

A manufacturer of fireworks of all descriptions wishes to get into touch with a first-class Canadian firm prepared to introduce and carry stocks of his goods.

An enquiry has been received for the addresses of Canadian manufacturers of woodflour.

Canadian Enquiry.—A Canadian manufacturing company ask to be placed in communication with United Kingdom manufacturers of helmet bodies, both of gossamer and cork.

Note.—For further information regarding any of the above, application should be made to the Canadian Government City Trade Branch, 73, Basinghall Street, E.C.

Canadian Trade Index.

With reference to the notice on p. 244 of the "Board of Trade Journal" of 8th November, respecting a new edition of the "Canadian Trade Index," it should be noted that copies of this publication can be obtained gratis at the offices of the High Commissioner for Canada, 17, Victoria Street, S.W.

Openings for British Trade.

SOUTH AFRICA.

Hardwood Sleepers and Timber.

The "Government Gazette" of the Orange River Colony announces that the Administration of the Central South African Railways are prepared to receive tenders up to 11 a.m. on the 2nd January, 1907, for the supply and delivery of hardwood sleepers and certain Jarrah and Karri wood timber.

Tender forms with full particulars may be obtained from the Chief Railway Storekeeper, Germiston, and from the Railway Storekeepers, Pretoria and Bloemfontein.

MALTA.

Stoneware Pipes and Specials.

Sealed tenders will be received at the Office of the Receiver-General and Director of Contracts, Valletta, up to 11 a.m. on the 21st December, for the supply of stoneware pipes and specials; those received after the said date and hour will not be considered. Tenders are to be accompanied by a deposit of 50*l.*, to be made in the Office of the Crown Agents for the Colonies, Whitehall Gardens, S.W., by tenderers residing in Great Britain, not having a representative in Malta.

The tenderer whose offer is accepted shall be held to have bound himself to an agreement, and may be compelled to carry out the obligations arising from his tender, even though he may not have signed a formal contract.

Contract fees are to be paid by the Contractor.

Particulars, specification, &c., may be obtained on application to the Crown Agents for the Colonies, Whitehall Gardens, London, S.W.

EGYPT.

Clothing and Stores.

An announcement appears in the Egyptian "Journal Officiel" to the effect that tenders will be received at the Office of the Director of Stores, Bulac, Cairo, up to noon on the 15th January, 1907, for the supply of:—

(*a*) Clothing, in such quantities as may be required for a period of 3 years, commencing on the 1st March, 1907, and ending on the 28th February, 1910.

(*b*) General stores and necessaries, in such quantities as may be required for a period of one year commencing on the 1st March, 1907, and ending on the 29th February, 1908.

Samples can be inspected at the Police Stores, Bulac, and at the Office of Col. Western, R.E., C.M.G., Queen Anne's Chambers, Broadway, Westminster, London, S.W.

Persons wishing to tender for these contracts can see the

specifications and conditions of tender at the Office of the Director of Stores, Bulac, at the Accounts Office, Ministry of the Interior, Cairo, or at the office of Col. Western, at the above-mentioned address.

Tenders must be submitted on the printed form provided for that purpose, accompanied by a covering letter, on stamped paper, which should be addressed to the Director of Stores, Ministry of the Interior, Bulac, Cairo, enclosed in sealed envelopes, and marked:

(*a*) Tender for the supply of clothing, 3 years.

(*b*) Tender for the annual supply of general stores.

Tenders must specify an authorised representative or agent in Egypt, giving his name and address.

As a guarantee of good faith, each tender must be accompanied by a declaration from a local Bank in Egypt to the effect that it holds a sum at the disposal of the Ministry of the Interior equal to 10 per cent. of the total value of the offer, stipulated in Article 2 of the conditions of tender. If the declaration does not accompany the tender it should be sent to the Director, Stores Department, Bulac, under separate cover, to arrive not later than the date fixed above for receiving tenders.

Unless the above formalities are complied with, tenders will not be considered.

The Administration reserves to itself the right to accept the whole or part of, but does not bind itself to accept the lowest or any tender.

SWEDEN.

Rolled Iron Beams, Galvanised Iron Wire, &c.

H.M. Consul at Stockholm (Mr. H. M. Villiers) has forwarded a copy of the Swedish "Official Gazette" of 27th November, in which tenders are invited for the supply to the State Railways at Stockholm, Gothenburg and Nörrkjoping of rolled iron beams. Tenders, which must include Customs duty, will be received by the Registrar, Railway Administration, Stockholm, up to the 22nd December.

Tenders are also invited by the State Railways for the supply of nails, plain galvanised wire (1,100,000 metres), and fastenings (500,000) for fencing. Tenders will be received by the Registrar of the Railway Administration up to the 2nd January, 1907.

The "Gazette," containing details of the supplies required, may be seen by British firms at the offices of the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C.

Openings for British Trade.

NETHERLANDS.

Railway Plant.

The "Bulletin Commercial" states that the Dutch Parliament has voted a subsidy for the construction of a railway in Haarlemmermeer, the district lying between Amsterdam and Haarlem.

Electric Tramway Plant.

The "Bulletin" also states that the Governor General of the Dutch East Indies has granted a company a concession for the construction of an electric tramway between Bandoeng and Zandbay, in the province of Preanger, Java.

BELGIUM.

Metal Shed Construction.

H.M. Consul-General at Antwerp (Sir C. Hertslet) reports that the Municipal Authorities of that city invite tenders for the erection of metallic structures on the quay side at an estimated cost of 207,500 francs (8,300*l.*).

The specification (*Cahier des Charges*) relating to the contract may be obtained from the Hôtel de Ville, Antwerp, price 1 franc.

Tend ers should be sent in sealed registered envelopes, addressed "A Monsieur le Bourgmestre de la Ville d'Anvers," and should reach the Hôtel de Ville not later than the 20th December. A deposit of 20,000 francs (800*l.*) is required to qualify any tender.

A copy of the specification may be seen at the offices of the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C.

FRANCE.

Metallic Swing Bridge Construction: Oil and Grease.

The British Vice-Consul at Rouen (Mr. C. Clipperton) reports that tenders will be opened on the 9th January, 1907, at the Préfecture of Rouen (Department of the Seine Inférieure), for (1) the construction of a metallic swing bridge in the Port of Havre. The maximum price is placed at 149,000 francs (5,960*l.*); (2) the supply of oil and grease for the use of the steamers, appliances, &c., connected with the service of the navigation of the Lower Seine. These supplies will be for delivery at both Rouen and Havre. The maximum price is placed at 19,000 francs (£760). For further particulars applications should be made at the Préfecture, as above (2nd Division).

SWITZERLAND.

Railway Plant.

The "Feuille Fédérale Suisse," of 28th November, contains a copy of a concession granted to M. Romain Avanzini, engineer, of Lausanne, and M. Eugène Nyauld, manufacturer, of Hermance, for the construction of a "crémaillère" railway (steam or electric traction) from St.

Openings for British Trade.

Gingolph to Grammont and eventually to the Cornettes de Bise. The cost of the work is estimated at 3,650,000 fr. (about 146,000*l.*), of which 204,000 fr. (about 8,160*l.*) is to be expended on rolling stock.

PORTUGUESE EAST AFRICA.

Pumping Machinery.

The "Boletim Official" of Mozambique of 3rd December contains a copy of a decree assigning a site on the banks of the River Umbelusi to the Municipality of Lourenço Marques for the erection of pumping machinery for supplying that town with water.

SPAIN.

Tramway Plant.

The "Gaceta de Madrid" of 25th November notifies an application by the "Sociedad Tranvia de Cádiz á San Fernando y Carraca" which holds the concession for the "Tranvia Urbano de Cadiz," for permission to double the existing single lines on the last-named tramway.

Smokeless Powder Ingredients.

The "Gaceta" of 29th November contains a copy of a notice inviting tenders, which will be opened on 8th January at the "Fabrica de polvoras y explosivos," Granada, for the supply of:—33,000 kilogs. of sulphuric ether, 18,000 kilogs. of alcohol, 20,000 kilogs. of raw cotton, 67,000 kilogs. of nitric acid, 42,000 kilogs. of sulphuric acid, 12,000 metric tons of Spanish or British coal, 350 metric tons of Spanish or British anthracite, 50 metric tons of Spanish or British coke, to be supplied in the last three months of 1907, and the first three months of 1908, for the manufacture of smokeless powder. Local representation is necessary.

Heating Apparatus for Railway Carriages.

The "Gaceta" of 1st December, contains a copy of a Royal Order, stipulating that all railway companies subject to the general conditions promulgated on 15th February, 1856, must in future provide heating apparatus in second and third class railway carriages during the period when such provision has hitherto been obligatory in first class carriages only.

Iron Bridgework.

The same issue of the "Gaceta" contains a notice inviting tenders, which will be opened on 16th January, at the Directorate General of Public Works, Madrid, for the construction of an iron bridge over the river Arevalillo, on the road from Villacastin to Vigo, at the estimated cost of 56,975 pesetas (about 2,071*l.*). Plans and specifications are on view at the above-mentioned office; conditions of

Openings for British Trade.

SPAIN—*continued.*

tender are set forth in the "Gaceta." Local representation is necessary.

The "Gacetas" may be seen at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, E.C.

Harbour Works Plant. See notice on p. 473.

ITALY.

Beer. The Austro-Hungarian Consul at Leghorn reports that the new flourishing establishments at Leghorn, which in the season are greatly frequented by visitors, particularly by those of well-to-do class, warrant the assumption that the consumption of imported beer will increase. A light beer is preferred.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY.

Coasting Steamships. See notice on p. 474.

ROUMANIA.

Railway Material. According to the "Curierul Financiar" (Bucharest), the Buzeo District Council has granted to the firm of Marmorosch Blank et Cie. the concession for a railway from Buzeo to Nehoiashi and Patarlagele.

OTTOMAN EMPIRE.

Beer. The Austro-Hungarian Consul at Yanina calls attention to the state of the beer trade there, which, in his opinion, offers good chances for increased sales. The supply is chiefly drawn from Austria-Hungary and Germany, and to some extent from Salonica and Constantinople. A heavy brown beer is chiefly consumed. Prices, f.o.b., Hamburg, with 2 per cent. discount for prompt cash are: 16*s.* a case of 48 bottles of 0·76 litre, Munich beer; and 15*s.* 6*d.* a case of 48 bottles of 0·66 litre, Pilsener beer.

Salonica, according to a report by the Austro-Hungarian Consul there, is an active market for bottled beer, and foreign importers should find good openings. The demand is to a large extent restricted to dark beer, although light beers ought to sell well in the hot summer months.

In Smyrna, according to a German Consular report, it is to a light beer that the native taste is chiefly inclined, and light Pilsener has the largest importation. The importation of beer in

cask from Germany is affected by the circumstance that the steamers plying between Hamburg, Bremen, Trieste, and Smyrna possess no cool chambers, and that, with the exception of one firm, there are no restaurant keepers in Smyrna who are able to handle European beer in cask.

MEXICO.

Railway Plant.

The "Diario Oficial" of Mexico of 8th November contains a copy of a contract entered into with the Cananea, Río Yaqui, and Pacific Railway Company for the construction of a railway (1·435 metre gauge) from a point on the above line between Naco and Cananea to the station at Ymuris, on the Sonora railway.

The "Diario" of 9th November contains copy of a similar contract with the Mexican Flume and Lumber Company for the construction of a line (0·914 metre gauge) from the station at Quirio, on the National Railway of Mexico to a point near Las Cruces.

CUBA.

Public Works.

According to the New York "Journal of Commerce," the expenditure of 6,000,000 dols. for public works now under course of construction or of urgent necessity in Cuba, has been recommended by Lieutenant-Colonel Black, in a report which has been approved by the Governor of the Island. This sum is a portion of the 12,000,000 dols. provided for such purpose by the Cuban budget. The remainder of this amount, 6,000,000 dols., will not be expended before the completion of a further study of conditions, upon which a supplementary report is to be made. The projects authorised consist mainly of the extension of important highways, the completion of public buildings and improvements in hospitals.

CHILE.

Railway Plant.

According to the "Revista Comercial" (Valparaiso) the Ministry of Industry and Public Works has approved the following:—

1. Plans for the construction of a Branch Railway to connect the Carmen nitrate "oficina" with the Antofagasta and Oruro railway.

2. Plans presented by the "Compañia de Lota y Coronel" for the construction of a railway from Lota to Playa Negra.

3. Plans for the construction of a branch railway between the Anita "oficina" and the Carmen "oficina."

It is also noted that Señor Rodolfo Rothstein has applied for permission to construct a railway from Camarones to the Bolivian frontier.

Openings for British Trade.

CHILE—*continued.*

Hydro-Electric Plant.

The "Revista" also states that a company, entitled "Compañia Industrial de Chiguayante," has been formed at Concepcion for the appropriation of water at three points situated between Chiguayante and Hualqui, for the production of motive power and for irrigation purposes. The capital of the company is 300,000 pesos (about 18,750*l.*).

Plant for Boot and Shoe Factory.

The "Revista" also notes the formation of the "Chilian Shoe and Tanning Company" at Valparaiso, for the manufacture of high-class boots and shoes, &c. The capital of the company is 1,200,000 pesos (about 75,000*l.*).

EXHIBITIONS.

NORWAY.

Exhibition of Motors, Motor Boats, &c.

The "Reichsanzeiger" (Berlin) reports that an Exhibition of motors, motor cars, motor boats, as well as accessories and designs, will be held in Bergen from 5th to 14th July next. In connexion with it a conference of the Norwegian, Swedish, and Danish Fishing Industry will be held. The exhibition is to be Scandinavian, but foreign motors will be admitted if exhibited by Scandinavian or Danish agents. The address is, Motorudstillingskomiteen, Bergen, Norway.

ROUMANIA.

Proposed International Exhibition at Bucharest in 1907.

H.M. Legation at Bucharest report that the re-opening of the Bucharest Exhibition on an international footing next year is under discussion.

COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE.

A meeting of the Sub-Committee on Foreign Tariffs was held on the 5th December, at the Offices of the Board of Trade, in Whitehall Gardens, Mr. A. Wilson Fox, C.B., being in the Chair.

There were also present:—Sir A. E. Bateman, K.C.M.G., Mr. F. Brittain, Mr. G. H. Cox, Mr. T. Craig Brown, Mr. A. H. Harris, C.B., C.M.G., Sir W. H. Holland, M.P., Mr. Algernon Law, Mr. W. H. Mitchell, Mr. E. Parkes and Sir Albert Rollit.

PANAMA CANAL SUPPLIES.

With reference to the notice on p. 106 of the "Board of Trade Journal" of 19th July last, a despatch has been received at the Foreign Office from H.M. Ambassador at Washington, in which the principle on which the Isthmian Canal Commission deal with competition between American and foreign firms in regard to supplies is explained. To the foreign firm's price they add the amount of duty on the article or articles which would be payable under the American tariff. If with this addition the foreign firm's price is still lower than the American prices, the contract may be awarded to them. They have also to take other matters into consideration, such as date of delivery, &c., but *cæteris paribus* the above is their manner of comparing foreign with American tenders.

The net result of the joint resolution of Congress is therefore, adds H.M. Ambassador, to render nugatory, so far as the Canal Commission is concerned, the provisions that imports into the Canal zone shall be admitted free of duty.

HOSIERY TRADE OF EGYPT.

The following particulars relating to the hosiery trade of Egypt are taken from the November issue of the "Journal of the British Chamber of Commerce of Egypt":—

"The Customs category in which hosiery goods are included reads as follows:—'Hosiery in silk, cotton, wool, or any other textile material. All such articles made either by hand or machinery, and principally those which are intended for purposes of clothing, such as stockings, socks, drawers, undervests, and cotton gloves.'

"The returns relating to the classification in question for the past four years are as under:—

——	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.
	L. E.	L. E.	L. E.	L. E.
United Kingdom	7,220	11,638	15,181	17,338
Germany	31,643	37,287	44,825	50,881
Austria-Hungary	28,245	19,561	22,220	17,309
Spain	1,692	857	379	632
France	23,620	30,787	35,898	39,945
Italy	18,318	26,140	29,306	25,540
Switzerland	1,258	781	479	938
Other countries	1,248	712	1,950	1,809
Total	113,244	127,763	150,238	154,392

L. E. = £1 0*s.* 6¼*d.*

"A glance at the above table clearly shows that, although England increased her small turnover by 240 per cent. during the four years, her trade at the end of the period was still nearly

Hosiery Trade of Egypt.

50 per cent. below that done by Germany in 1902, whilst the latter country's figures rose from £E 31,643 to £E 50,881. France has steadily increased her sales since 1902, and although Italy's returns suffered a slight diminution last year, both countries are still a long way ahead of Great Britain.

"**Vests**—The bulk of the vests sold in this country come from Saxony and the southern parts of Germany. The price for the cheapest qualities runs about 12 francs (9*s.* 7*d.*) the dozen c.i.f. Alexandria. Germany also produces a better class article with fancy designs at 30 francs, 32 francs, and even 40 francs the dozen.

"A very low grade article is manufactured by Italy and sold here by weight.

"Speaking generally, the vests most in favour are those with long sleeves. The material should be fairly elastic, whilst, at the same time, the wrist of the sleeve ought to have a rather tight fit.

"**Men's drawers**.—The trade in this article, so far as the Arab is concerned, is not extensive, since the fellah, as a rule, wears an under garment in the form of a very loose and wide sack with a couple of holes in it. The goods are made from cheap Manchester fabrics, and are worked up by the native women or tailors.

"Cheap drawers for men have recently been sent over from Holland, the dimensions of the goods being 34 and 36 inches in width, and 40 and 41 inches in length. The material used is entirely cotton, and the price, c.i.f. Alexandria, about 9 francs (7*s.* 2*d.*) a dozen. Five per cent. is allowed to the commission Agent, and a further 3 per cent. to 5 per cent. for cash within 30 days.

"**Stockings**.—A very large business in socks and stockings is done by Germany and France. Although the former country also provides a better class sock, the bulk of her trade consists of a low grade article sold at prices which almost defy competition, viz., about 4 to 5 francs (3*s.* 2*d.* to 4*s.*) the dozen.

"The above remarks apply to women's stockings, though the material used is rather better than in the case of socks, and the price proportionately higher, say, from 5 to 6 francs (4*s.* to 4*s.* 10*d.*) the dozen. Better qualities run up to 20 francs (16*s.*) and even 30 francs the dozen.

"France does not lay herself out to supply the very cheapest form of socks, her prices varying, say, from 6 to 12 francs (4*s.* 10*d.* to 9*s.* 7*d.*) the dozen.

"The few woollen socks which are used come from England, though for obvious reasons the output for Egypt in this article can never be anything but small.

"Black is the principal colour for women's stockings, whilst openwork wear is also much in favour. In socks for men, those having horizontal or vertical stripes are the ones most in demand. Coloured socks also find a market here. One essential feature is

Hosiery Trade of Egypt.

that the colours should stand well, and in this respect Germany sets a satisfactory example, even with her cheaper qualities. The sizes are as follows:—Children, 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5. Women, 8, 8½, 9, and 9½. Men, 9½, 10, 10½, and 11. The goods are usually packed in boxes, each containing half a dozen pairs.

"Many travellers—especially from Germany—come over in connection with the hosiery trade, and to show the volume of business which may be obtained on this side, we may instance the case—which we have on good authority—of a certain German manufacturer who, as the result of a personal trip once a year, usually takes away with him orders for vests and pants to the extent of £E 5,000."

With regard to the position of the United Kingdom in the hosiery trade of Egypt, the "Journal" writes:—

"Germany's predominance in the trade is undoubtedly due to the fact that she caters for the masses, the result being that she produces a low grade article which is sold at a very cheap price. She is also liberal with her terms, allowing 5 per cent. to the agent and 5 per cent. for cash within 30 days or even longer. On the other hand, it is generally admitted that, excluding the relatively small better class European trade, the English articles are too good for the requirements of Egypt. . . .

"Speaking generally, England easily claims a superiority in all kinds of woollen hosiery, and she can also more than hold her own in the best class of lisle thread and cotton goods. She is, however, unable to compete in the lower priced articles.

"The demand for fancy colours and designs in hosiery does not appear to be catered for at home, this trade being mainly done by France. For example, a prominent outfitter here recently showed us a French sock which he had been totally unable to match in England. The article consisted of a coloured ground with embroidered front, and was, of course, ribbed. Although the seams were badly finished and placed—the main one running exactly down the middle of the foot—the sock was being retailed by a competitor at 4*s*. the pair.

"The ribbed top of an English sock should be thicker and thus more elastic than at present, so that it may cling better to the leg. The foreign manufacturer pays more attention to this point than the English house. In the case of women's stockings, the English standard requires to be made rather wider at the top for Egypt.

"Certain foreigners when in mourning entirely clothe themselves in black, even carrying the practice so far as their braces. The necessary vest and pants come from the Continent.

"In the event of a home manufacturer wishing to enter this market, we would suggest that, after getting in touch with a reliable agent, he forwards the latter a small postal order with instructions to buy samples."

EXPORT TRADE OF BRAZIL.

Adverting to the table published on p. 235 of the "Board of Trade Journal" of 3rd May last, giving details by principal articles of the export trade of Brazil during 1905, the figures for which year show that coffee represented 47·9 per cent., and rubber 32·3 per cent. of the total, it may be of interest to transcribe the following from a memorandum just received from the Acting British Consul-General at Rio de Janeiro (Mr. D. R. O'Sullivan-Beare) viz. :—

The economic year in Brazil is divisible into three distinct periods, namely—

1. Three months, January, February and March during which rubber shipments are at their height, and coffee also is being shipped on a considerable scale.

2. Four months, April, May, June and July during which little produce of any kind is being shipped. These four months constitute the slack season in Brazil during which the amount of produce bills in the market reaches its minimum.

3. Five months, August, September, October, November and December, during which the coffee season is at its height, while during the months of November and December rubber also is being shipped on a considerable scale.

The following figures, showing the value in sterling of the exports from Brazil during the years 1901–5, illustrate the working of the divisions in question :—

Year.	Three months (January, February & March).	Four months (April, May, June and July).	Five months (August, September, October, November and December).	Total for the Year.
	£	£	£	£
1901	9,268,723	10,155,661	21,198,609	40,622,993
1902	9,726,898	10,330,246	18,380,312	38,437,456
1903	9,815,060	9,943,852	17,124,263	36,883,175
1904	9,822,072	9,551,273	20,056,791	39,430,136
1905	12,005,334	9,660,171	22,977,608	44,643,113
Total	50,638,087	49,641,203	99,737,583	200,016,873
Percentage...	25·3 %	24·8 %	49·9 %	100 %
Average monthly value	£3,375,867	£2,482,060	£3,989,503	£3,333,614

PROPOSED TARIFF CHANGES.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

Proposed Additional Duties on Spirits, &c.

The "Straits Settlements Government Gazette" for 5th October last contains the provisions of a Bill dated 1st October, 1906, which, it is stated, is about to be introduced into the Legislative Council of the Straits Settlements, and is now published for general information.

The Bill provides for an *additional* duty to be paid by persons having in their possession for sale at the commencement of 1907 liquors upon which duty has been paid under the "Liquors Ordinance, 1904." These additional duties—which are imposed in consequence of the coming into force of the "Liquors Ordinance, 1906, on 1st January, 1907—are as follows:—

Articles.		Additional Duty.
Spirituous liquors	per gallon	90 cents.
Sparkling wines	,,	50 ,,
Still wines	,,	50 ,,
Other intoxicating liquors (except native wines and spirits, and toddy)	,,	6 ,,

It is stated in the "Gazette" that the object of the Bill is to ensure that liquors imported before the 1st January, 1907, but not consumed during the current year and kept for sale, shall be liable to the full duties imposed by "The Liquors Ordinance, 1906 (for details of which, *see* the "Board of Trade Journal" for 4th October, 1906.)

SPAIN.

Proposed Suspension of Import Duty on Fodder.

The "Gaceta de Madrid" for the 17th November contains a Royal Decree authorising the presentation to the Cortes of a Bill providing for the suspension during one year of the customs duty on fodder and cake (*pastos*) for feeding cattle. (Tariff No. 637.)

TARIFF CHANGES AND CUSTOMS REGULATIONS.

BRITISH INDIA.

Excise Act. Regulation on Drugs, &c.

The "Burma Gazette" for 27th October last, contains a Notification (No. 185) amending the Burma Excise Regulations, and notifying that drugs, medicines or chemicals (including medicated wines and similar preparations) imported into Burma which contain 20 per cent. and upwards of proof spirit are declared to be "foreign spirit" for the purposes of the Excise Act of 1896.

Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.

BRITISH INDIA—*continued.*

In consequence of the above Notification, it will follow that such drugs, &c., may be sold in Burma only by persons who hold licences under the Act. A licence, it may be remarked, is not required under the Excise Act for the sale of medicated wines and similar preparations which contain less than 20 per cent. of proof spirit.

AUSTRALIAN COMMONWEALTH.

Commerce Act: Decision respecting Textile Piece Goods.

The Board of Trade have received information to the effect that the following ruling has been given by the Customs Department of the Australian Commonwealth respecting the non-application of the Commerce Regulations, notified in the "Board of Trade Journal" of 29th November last, to textile piece goods:—

"The Commerce Regulations do not apply to textile piece goods: they apply only to articles of apparel (under Regulations 6 (2) (*d*) and (*e*)). It is not necessary to apply any description to piece goods, but if any is voluntarily applied it must be correct in all particulars, and must not contain any suggestion which might mislead any person in any matter in relation to the goods.

It is not necessary to mark the country of origin on soft goods made in an English-speaking country and bearing any English indications, provided the goods do not come within the Commerce Regulations 5 and 6.

In the case of piece goods, a statement of size or length is not required, but if any is stated it must be accurate. The term 'yards nett' is not required since the word 'yards,' if used, will be taken to indicate the exact length, and if it did not represent the correct length it would be a false description."

Commerce Act. Importation of Fruit and Vegetables.

A copy of an Order (No. 780) issued by the Commonwealth Department of Trade and Customs on the 25th October last, under the Commerce Act of 1905, has been received, in which it is notified that the attention of the Commonwealth Government has been called to the fact that imported vegetables and fruit are frequently condemned by the State Authorities as diseased.

It is pointed out in the Order that in all cases in which State laws prohibit the importation of such goods the Collector may permit them to be exported beyond the Commonwealth, provided the packages are plainly marked with the true description of the goods and the name of the country where they were produced.

It is further stated that "it is not necessary to deal with such goods under the export provisions of the Commerce Regulations."

Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.

AUSTRALIAN COMMONWEALTH—*continued.*

Import Duties on Agricultural Machinery and Implements.

With reference to the notices which have been published in the "Board of Trade Journal" on the 4th and 18th of October last, respecting the proposal to revise the Customs duties on agricultural machinery and implements imported into the Australian Commonwealth, the Board of Trade have recently received a copy of an Act (No. 14 of 1906) relating to the import duties imposed on such articles, which was assented to on the 12th October last.

The present Act amends the Customs Tariff Act of 1902, as regards the imposition of duties on various classes of agricultural machinery and implements, with effect from 28th August, 1906.

In consequence of some amendments having been made since the introduction of the Resolution in the Commonwealth Parliament, it has been considered desirable to give the complete list of articles affected by the Act under notice, and the rates of duty payable thereon on importation into the Commonwealth.

Import Duties.

Articles.		Rates of Import Duty.
Fixed Rates.		
Stripper harvesters	Each	16*l.*; and on and after 7th September, 1906, each, 12*l.*
Strippers	„	8*l.*; and on and after 7th September, 1906, each, 6*l.*
Metal parts of stripper harvesters and strippers	...Per lb.	2½*d.*; and on and after 7th September, 1906, per lb., 1½*d.*
Ad valorem Rates.		
Stump jump ploughs	*Ad val.*	25 %
Disc cultivators		
Winnowers, horse and other power		
Combined corn sheller, husker and bagger ...		
Combined corn sheller and husker		
Drills—		
Fertiliser	*Ad val.*	25 % on and after 7th September, 1906.
Seed		
Grain and attachments thereto		
Ploughs, other	*Ad val.*	20 %
Ploughshares		
Harrows		
Chaff Cutters and horse gear		
Cultivators, other than disc		
Scarifiers		
Plough mould boards		
Corn shellers		
Corn huskers		

Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.

AUSTRALIAN COMMONWEALTH—*continued.*

Free Goods.

Manufactures of metal, viz. :—

Hand-worked rakes and ploughs combined.
Hay tedders.
Maize harvesters.
Maize binders.
Mould board plates in the rough and not cut into shape.
Potato sorters.
Potato raisers or diggers.
Sub-surface packers.

The Act further provides that if the Governor-General is satisfied that the cash prices at which "stripper harvesters" and "drills" manufactured in Australia are sold, exceeds the prices as specified in the Act, he may, by proclamation, reduce the rate of duty on such articles, providing that such reduction shall not reduce the rate of duty below one-half the rate imposed by this Act.

The "Spirits Act, 1906."

Adverting to the notice which was published in the "Board of Trade Journal" of the 14th October last with reference to the Bill which was introduced into the Commonwealth House of Representatives relating to spirits imported into, and distilled in Australia, the Board of Trade have now received a copy of the Act (No. 21 of 1906) entitled the "Spirits Act, 1906," which was assented to on 12th October last.

The Act, which is to come into force on a day to be fixed by proclamation, provides that, after the first day of March, 1907, no spirit described as brandy shall be delivered for human consumption until the Collector of Customs is satisfied, by the production of an official certificate given in the country of origin, that the spirit is distilled wholly from grape wine.

It is further provided that after the 1st January, 1908, no imported spirits (other than gin, Geneva Hollands, schnapps, or liqueurs) shall be delivered from the control of the Customs for human consumption unless the Collector of Customs for the State is satisfied that the spirits have been matured by storage in wood for a period of not less than two years.

A similar provision is made respecting certain Australian spirits. In the case of spirits which are certified by a Commonwealth analyst to be of bad or inferior quality the Minister may order that they be methylated, or, if imported spirits, may permit such spirits to be exported or to be re-distilled in Australia.

The methylation of spirits will only be allowed in accordance with this Act, and any regulations which may be made to give

Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.

AUSTRALIAN COMMONWEALTH—*continued.*

effect thereto. The purposes for which methylated spirits may be used are defined by the Act under notice.

Provisions are also made empowering distillers and blenders of Australian spirits to obtain, if desired, certificates respecting their true description.

Preferential treatment of South African Products.

With reference to the preliminary notice published on p. 211 of the "Board of Trade Journal" for 1st November last, with relation to the extension of reciprocal privileges to certain South African products on importation into the Commonwealth, the Board of Trade have now received from Captain Muirhead Collins, C.M.G., the officer representing the Commonwealth of Australia in London, a copy of an Act, entitled the "Custom Tariff (South African Preference), 1906" (No. 17 of 1906), which was assented to on 12th October last.

The Act in question provides for a reduction of duty, with effect from 1st October, 1906, on certain dutiable goods, imported into the Commonwealth from, and being the produce or manufacture of, any of the British South African Colonies, or Protectorates within the South African Customs Union.

The following statement gives a complete list of the articles affected by the present Act, and shows the rates of duty imposed thereon, under the general Customs Tariff of 1902, and under this Act, as being the produce or manufacture of British South Africa :—

No. of Item in the Customs Tariff 1902.	Dutiable Goods.	Rates of Import Duty.	
		Under the Customs Tariff, 1902.	Under Act (17 of 1906)—*i.e.*, when the produce or manufacture of Colonies, &c., within the South African Customs Union.
—	Angora hair	Free.	Free.
Div. XI. (*e*)	Diamonds, unset	Free.	Free.
14	Butter and Cheese ... ... per lb.	3*d*.	Rates imposed by the Customs Tariff, 1902, less 25 per cent.
18	Confectionery, n.e.i., including bon-bons and mixed packets of confectionery containing trinkets (gross weight), sugar candy, cachous, and fruits crystallized or candied per lb.	2*d*.	
23 (*d*)	Fodder ... ... per cental	2*s*. 6*d*.	
24	Hay and chaff ... ... per cwt.	1*s*.	
22	Grain—		
	Oats ... ... per cental	1*s*. 6*d*.	
22	Maize ... ... per cental	1*s*. 6*d*.	1*s*.

Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.

AUSTRALIAN COMMONWEALTH—*continued.*

No. of Item in the Customs Tariff, 1902.	Dutiable Goods.	Rates of Import Duty.	
		Under the Customs Tariff, 1902.	Under Act (17 of 1906)—*i.e.*, when the produce or manufacture of Colonies, &c., within the South African Customs Union.
	Grain—*continued.*		Rates imposed by the Customs Tariff, 1902, less 25 per cent.
22	Wheat ... ... per cental.	1*s.* 6*d.*	
23 (*c*)	Bran ... ... „	1*s.*	
23 (*d*)	Flour ... ... „	2*s.* 6*d.*	
25	Jams and jellies ... ... per lb.	1½*d.*	
121	Leather, n.e.i., including green hide for belting purposes ... ...*ad val.*	15 %	
	Machinery—		
78 (*a*)	Agricultural, horticultural and viticultural machinery and implements, n.e.i., including shares and plough plates cut to shape, horse gears, and road-making ploughs, scoops, horse road rollers, and machines ... ...*ad val.*	12½ %	
78 (*p*)	Mining machinery, n.e.i. ... ... „	12½ %	
36	Meat, fish, poultry and game—		
36 (*a*)	(*a*) Fresh, smoked, or preserved by cold process ... ... per lb.	1*d.*	
36 (*b*)	(*b*) Potted or concentrated, including extracts of, and caviare ... ...*ad val.*	20 %	
36 (*c*)	(*c*) Preserved in tins or other air-tight vessels, including the weight of the contents, per lb.	1½*d.*	
36 (*e*)	(*e*) Preserved fish in tins or other air-tight vessels, including the weight of liquid per lb.	1*d.*	
36 (*f*)	(*f*) N.E.I. ... ... per cwt.	5*s.*	
37	Milk, preserved ... ... per lb.	1*d.*	
	Timber, viz.—		
110 (*a*)	(*a*) Architraves, mouldings and skirtings, of any material ... ... per 100 lineal feet	5*s.*	
110 (*b*)	(*b*) Timber, dressed, n.e.i., per 100 super. feet	3*s.*	
110 (*c*)	(*c*) Timber, undressed, n.e.i., in sizes of 12 in. by 6 in. (or its equivalent) and over per 100 super feet	1*s.*	
110 (*d*)	(*d*) Timber, undressed, being Oregon, in sizes of 12 in. by 6 in. (or its equivalent) and over ... ... per 100 super feet	6*d.*	
110 (*e*)	(*e*) Timber, undressed, n.e.i., in sizes of 7 in. by 2½ in. (or its equivalent) and upwards, and less than 12 in. by 6 in. (or its equivalent) ... ... per 100 super. feet	1*s.* 6*d.*	
110 (*f*)	(*f*) Timber, undressed, n.e.i., of sizes less than 7 in. by 2½ in. (or its equivalent) per 100 super. feet	1*s.* 6*d.*	
110 (*g*)	(*g*) Laths ... ... per 1000	5s.	
110 (*h*)	(*h*) Palings ... ... „	15*s.*	
110 (*i*)	(*i*) Pickets, dressed ... ... per 100	4*s.*	
110 (*j*)	(*j*) Pickets, undressed ... ... „	1*s.*	
110 (*k*)	(*k*) Shingles ... ... per 1000	3*s.*	
	Doors of wood—		
110 (*l*)	(*l*) 1¾ in. and over ... ... each	7*s.* 6*d.*	
110 (*m*)	(*m*) Over 1½ in. and under 1¾ in. „	5*s.*	
110 (*n*)	(*n*) 1½ in. and under ... ... „	3*s.* 6*d.*	

Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.

AUSTRALIAN COMMONWEALTH—*continued.*

No. of Item in the Customs Tariff 1902.	Dutiable Goods.	Rates of Import Duty.	
		Under the Customs Tariff, 1902.	Under Act (17 of 1906)—*i.e.*, when the produce or manufacture of Colonies, &c, within the South African Customs Union.
36 (*f*)	Fish, dried... ... ... per cwt.	5*s.*	2*s.* 8*d.*
21	Fruits and vegetables, viz.—		
	Fruits, dried, viz.—		
21 (*a*)	(*a*) Currants ... ...per lb.	2*d.*	1*d.*
21 (*b*)	(*b*) Dates ... ... „	1*d.*	½*d.*
21 (*c*)	(*c*) Raisins and other, including peel and ginger, preserved (not in liquid)...per lb.	3*d.*	1½*d.*
21 (*i*)	(*i*) Fruits, n e.i. ... ... per cental	2*s.*	Free.
21 (*k*)	(*k*) Bananas ... ... „	1*s.*	Free.
58 (*b*)	Feathers, dressed .. .. *ad val.*	25 %	20 %
70	Feathers, undressed ... ... „	15 %	10 %
2	Spirits, viz.—		
	(*a*) Spirts,* and spirituous compounds, n.e.i., when not exceeding the strength of proof per gallon	14*s.*	Rates equal to rates of Excise duty for the time being in force, increased by 2½ %
	(*b*) When exceeding the strength of proof per *proof* gallon	14*s.*	
5	Tobacco, viz.—		
	(*a*) Manufactured, including the weight of tags, labels, and other attachments, per lb.	3*s.* 3*d.*	2*s.* 6*d.*
	(*b*) Unmanufactured ... ... „	3*s.* 3*d.*	2*s.* 6*d.*
7	Sugar, viz.—		
	(*a*) The produce of sugar cane per cwt.	6*s.*	—
	Produced solely by white labour „	—	4*s.*
	Produced wholly or partly by black labour ... ... „	—	5*s.*
3	Wine, fermented (other than sparkling), including medicinal or medicated and vermouth, viz.—		
3 (*b*)	(*b*) In bottle ... ... per gallon†	8*s.*	3*s.*
3 (*c*)	(*c*) Other ... ... per gallon	6*s.*	2*s.*
3 (*d*)	(*d*) Containing more than 35 per cent. of proof spirit, for each 1 per cent. of proof spirit over 35 per cent., up to and including 40 per cent. additional... per gallon	6*d.*	3*d.*
3 (*e*)	(*e*) Containing more than 40 per cent. of proof spirit ... ... per gallon	14*s.*	10*s.* 3*d.*

* Case spirits, in cases of two gallons and under, to be charged as two gallons; over two gallons, and not exceeding three gallons, as three gallons; over three gallons and not exceeding four gallons, as four gallons; and so on.

† Six reputed quarts, twelve reputed pints, or twenty-four reputed half-pints, to be charged as one gallon.

Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.

AUSTRALIAN COMMONWEALTH—*continued.*

Excise duty on Agricultural Machinery.

With reference to the Notice which appeared in the "Board of Trade Journal" for 15th November last respecting the rates of Excise duty imposed on various classes of agricultural machinery and implements manufactured in Australia, the Board of Trade have received a copy of an Act, entitled the "Excise Tariff, 1906" (No. 16 of 1906), which was also assented to on 12th October last.

The rates of Excise duty imposed by the Act are identical with those given in the "Journal" Notice of the above date.

Revised Excise Duties on Spirits.

With reference to the Notice which appeared in the "Board of Trade Journal" for 15th November last, respecting the proposed revision of the excise duties on spirits manufactured within the Australian Commonwealth, the Board of Trade have now received from Captain Muirhead Collins, the officer representing the Commonwealth of Australia in London, a copy of a further "Excise Tariff Act of 1906" (No. 20 of 1906), which was assented to on 12th October last.

The rates of duty which were specified in the Bill introduced by the Minister of Trade and Customs have been in some instances revised.

The following is a complete list of the articles affected by the present Act, which came into force on 17th August, 1906 :—

Dutiable Goods.	Rates of Excise Duty.
Spirits, viz. :—	
(1) Brandy, distilled wholly from grape wine by a pot still or similar process at a strength not exceeding 40 per cent. over proof, matured by storage in wood for a period of not less than two years, and certified by an officer to be pure brandy, per proof gallon	10*s.*
(2) Blended wine brandy, distilled from grape wine, and containing not less than 25 per cent. of pure grape wine spirit (which has been separately distilled by a pot still or similar process at a strength not exceeding 40 per cent. over proof). the whole being matured by storage in wood for a period not less than two years, and certified by an officer to be brandy so blended and matured, per proof gallon	11*s.*
(3) Whisky, distilled wholly from barley malt by a pot still or similar process, at a strength not exceeding *35* per cent over-proof, matured by storage in wood for a period of not less than two years, and certified by an officer to be pure malt whisky, per proof gallon	10*s.*
(4) Blended whisky, distilled partly from barley malt and partly from other grain, containing not less than 25 per cent. of pure barley malt spirit (which has been separately distilled by a pot still or similar process at a strength not exceeding *35* per cent. over-proof), the whole being matured by storage in wood for a period of not less than two years, and certified by an officer to be whisky so blended and matured, per proof gallon	12*s.*

Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.

AUSTRALIAN COMMONWEALTH—*continued.*

Dutiable Goods.	Rates of Excise Duty.
(5) Rum, distilled from molasses by a pot still or similar process, at a strength not exceeding 45 per cent. over-proof, matured by storage in wood for a period of not less than two years, and certified by an officer to be pure rum, per proof gallon ...	12*s.*
(6) Gin, distilled from barley malt, grain, or grape wine, and certified by an officer to be pure gin, per proof gallon ...	12*s.*
(7) Spirits, n.e.i., per proof gallon	13*s.*
(8) Spirit for industrial or scientific purposes, subject to Regulations, per proof gallon	13*s.*
(9) Methylated spirits, subject to Regulations	Free.
(10) Spirit for fortifying Australian wine or for making vinegar, subject to Regulations, per proof gallon	6*d.*
(11) Spirits for the manufacture, from Australian products exclusively, of scents and toilet preparations, subject to Regulations, per gallon	10*s.*

Provision is also made in the Act under notice, that all spirits distilled in Australia, and not having been matured by storage in wood for a period of two years, may, until 31st December, 1907, be delivered at the respective rates of duty specified in the Excise Tariff of 1902.

Additional duty in certain cases.

It is further provided, that if any distiller (*a*) does not, after the expiration of one year from the passing of this Act, pay his employés a fair and reasonable rate of wages per week of 48 hours; or

(*b*) employs more than a due proportion of boys to men engaged in the industry,

the Governor may, in pursuance of a joint address by the Senate and House of Representatives, impose an *additional* excise duty of 1s. per gallon on each of the above-mentioned rates, as regards such distiller.

SOUTH AFRICAN CUSTOMS UNION.

Marking of Tinned Goods.

The Board of Trade have received a communication from their Natal correspondent stating that it has been decided that, on and after 1st January, 1907, all tins containing jams, meats, milk, &c., must have the *net* weight of the contents *embossed on the tins*, otherwise duty will be charged on the reputed quantities.

The Board's correspondent further adds that the above regulation may also be made applicable to *bottles*, requiring the net weight of their contents to be blown in.

Customs Decisions.

The Board of Trade have received from the South African Customs Statistical Bureau the following list of Customs decisions, which have been agreed to by the various parties to the South African Customs Union :—

Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.

SOUTH AFRICAN CUSTOMS UNION—*continued.*

Articles and how classed.	Tariff No.	Rate of Import Duty.	
		General Rate.	Rebate upon goods, the manufacture of the United Kingdom and reciprocating British Colonies.
Poultry food (International)	175	15 % *ad val.*	3 % *ad val.*
Stock food (International)			
Tablets of chlorate of potash			
Telephone cabinets			
Account books, if ruled only, without any printed matter			
As goods unenumerated			
Pyramid night lights—			
As candles	7	5*s.* per 100 lbs.	10*d.* per 100 lbs.
Score register and notes on shooting (Andrew's)—			
As printed stationery...	43*b*	25 % *ad val.*	3 % *ad val.*
Tomato puree—			
As pickles, sauces, &c.	30	2¼*d.* per lb.	¼*d.* per lb.

Customs Decisions.

The Board of Trade have received from the Agent-General for Natal, copies of certain decisions which have been given relating to the classification for duty on various articles imported into the South African Customs Union.

The following is a summarised statement of the decisions given :—

Item in Customs Union Tariff.	Articles.
Class 2, Item 42	Boots and shoes— The following sizes in boots are constituted in the terms "men's," "women's," and "children's"— Men's, size 6 and over. Women's, size 2 and over. Children's— Male, below men's size. Female, below women's size. Slippers, canvas shoes, rope-sole shoes, gymnastic and felt and lasting goods pay duty as "boots and shoes" under item 42. Boots and shoes paying the minimum specific rate of duty will be allowed a rebate of 3 per cent. *ad valorem*, when entitled to preferential treatment.
Class 3, Item 52	Harness and Saddlery— Bits, stirrups, cords, girths, and horse brushes with leather backs will be admitted under item 175 of the Tariff.*
Class 4	Saddlers' materials— Most of the materials required for manufacturing harness and saddlery, such as saddle trees, fancy leather, threads, rivets, &c., are admitted under Class 4, paying 3 per cent. *ad valorem* (with

* *i.e.*, 15 per cent. *ad val.*, with a rebate of 3 per cent. *ad val.* if entitled to preferential treatment.

Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.

SOUTH AFRICAN CUSTOMS UNION—*continued.*

Item in Customs Union Tariff.	Articles.
	Saddlers' materials—*continued*— full rebate in the case of goods entitled to preferential treatment), but "buckles and harness mounts (metal)," when imported separately, are liable to duty under item 175 of the Tariff.*
Class 1, Item 37	Sugar— The Tariff, it is pointed out, draws no distinction between "refined" and "raw" sugar.
Class 3, Items 47 & 56	Shawls and printed handkerchiefs†— Shawling and loin cloths are included in this item, which covers so-called scarves, handkerchiefs, and mats exceeding in size 1,600 sq. inches (*i.e.*, 40 in. sq.) or its equivalent, whether imported singly or if in the piece, having a border fringe or weft. These articles are variously described as kidungas, loin cloths, cadungas, Zanzibar shawls, Kaffir mats, scarves, mats, and are sometimes known as printed calicoes, Gordon tartans, and animal pattern calicoes. Knitted and woollen squares are also to be classed as shawls, irrespective of size, if capable of use as a covering for the neck and shoulders.

* *i.e.*, 15 % *ad val.*, with a rebate of 3 % *ad val.* if entitled to preferential treatment.

† Subject to a duty of 25 % *ad val.*, with a rebate of 3 % *ad val.* if entitled to preferential treatment.

COLONY OF SOUTHERN NIGERIA.

Regulations affecting the Importation of Trade Spirits.

With reference to the notice which appeared on p. 208 of the "Board of Trade Journal" for 1st November last, the Board of Trade have now received a copy of the "Trade Spirits (Regulation of Receptacles) Ordinance, 1906" (No. 10 of 1906), which was assented to by the Governor of the Colony of Southern Nigeria on 12th September last.

The present Ordinance makes provision, as stated in the Bill referred to in the "Board of Trade Journal" above-mentioned, for regulating the receptacles and other vessels in which "trade spirits" may be imported into Southern Nigeria on and after 1st March, 1907.

EGYPT.

Commercial Convention with France.

The French "Journal Officiel" for the 24th November contains a Presidential Decree promulgating a Convention of Commerce and Navigation between France and Egypt which was signed on 26th November, 1902, and ratified at Cairo on the 25th October, 1906.

Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.

The principal provisions of this Convention are similar to those of the Commercial Convention recently concluded between Greece and Egypt, particulars of which will be found at pp. 229-30 of the "Board of Trade Journal" for the 2nd August last. It is to remain in force for a period of 21 years; but is subject to revision at the end of the 7th and 14th year by mutual consent of the Contracting Parties. In addition, the French Government reserves the right to notify, at any time, to the Egyptian Government its intention of annulling, at the end of twelve months from the date of notification, the stipulations of the Convention in virtue of which most-favoured-nation treatment is reciprocally accorded in the matter of the importation of merchandise.

The stipulations of this Convention are applicable to France, Algeria, French Colonies and Possessions, and the Protectorates of Indo-China and Tunis.

A copy of the Convention may be seen by persons interested at the offices of the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73 Basinghall Street, E.C.

GERMAN EAST AFRICA.

Ordinance respecting Beer Imported in Half-bottles.

The "Deutsches Kolonialblatt" for the 15th November contains an Ordinance of the Governor of German East Africa, in accordance with which beer imported in half-bottles is to pay half the duty chargeable on full bottles, *i.e.*, 0·05 rupee per half-bottle.

FRANCE—NEW CALEDONIA.

Free Admission of Omnibuses.

The French "Journal Officiel" for the 18th November contains a Presidential Decree, dated 6th November, providing that omnibuses for the public services of passenger transport are to be exempt from customs duty on importation into New Caledonia.

SPAIN.

Sanitary Precautions on the Importation of Animals from France.

The "Gaceta de Madrid" for the 14th November, contains a Royal Order temporarily suspending the provisions of the Royal Order of the 8th January last,* so far as regards the importation of cattle, sheep, goats and pigs from France.

* This Royal Order exempted animals imported into Spain from the period of sanitary observation of 10 days established by Royal Orders of December, 1887, and September, 1888.

Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.

ITALY—BRAZIL.

Further Prolongation of the Commercial Convention between Italy and Brazil.

With reference to the notice which appeared at p. 456 of the "Journal" for the 8th September, 1904, relative to the prolongation of the Commercial Convention between Italy and Brazil, the Board of Trade have now received information, through the Foreign Office, to the effect that the Convention has been further prolonged, by agreement between the two Governments, for a period of two years from the 31st December next, *i.e.*, until the 31st December, 1908.

MEXICO.

Forthcoming Increase of Additional Duty at Mazatlán.

The Mexican "Diario Oficial" for the 20th October contains a Presidential Decree raising the additional duty leviable on goods imported through the customs house of Mazatlán from 1½ per cent. to 2 per cent. of the import duty payable thereon. The increase is to take effect from the 1st January, 1907.

CUBA.

Blasting Explosives, Sporting Ammunition and Machetes.

The Board of Trade have received, through the Foreign Office, a translation of a notification which appeared in the Cuban "Gaceta Oficial" of 7th November, to the effect that the prohibition of the importation of explosives and machetes has been abrogated provisionally. Dynamite, blasting powder, and powder and ammunition for sporting guns may now be imported, provided that the importing firms satisfy the authorities that the explosives are to be used for blasting or other mechanical operations; and machetes may be imported and sold.

ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.

Decree respecting Ships' Provisions.

The Board of Trade are in receipt, through the Foreign Office, of information to the effect that a Decree, dated the 18th August, has been published in the Argentine Official Gazette, whereby masters of vessels arriving at Argentine ports who do not wish to present a detailed list of the provisions which they have on board, as required by the Customs Ordinances, are allowed instead to have the places where the provisions are kept sealed by the Customs authorities on entering port. These seals will be removed by the same authorities before the vessels leave Argentine waters.

SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT.

BRITISH WEST INDIES—ST. LUCIA.

The Administrator of St. Lucia remarks in his recent report to the Colonial Office:—

Castries as a Coaling Port.

"There seems no doubt that the future prosperity of the island depends on the coal business and on agriculture. The former fluctuates very considerably, and is apparently governed by the volume of trade between North and South America, the ships carrying the traffic finding St. Lucia a convenient stopping place to replenish their stocks of coal. . . ."

Particulars are given in the report of the construction work which has been going on for some years for the improvement of the harbour of Castries, which has resulted in a rapid increase in the business of the port as a coaling depôt. During the past year 551 steamships, with a total tonnage of 904,340 tons, entered, in addition to 245 sailing vessels, with a total tonnage of 11,109 tons. Within recent years an urgent demand has been made for increased wharf accommodation, and for extensive dredging operations to enlarge the navigable portion of the harbour for deep draught ships by the removal of shoals. A great deal of work has been done in the nature of piling the foreshore and reclaiming swampy land to the east of the concrete wharf. The present wharf accommodation consists of 646 lineal feet, constructed of cement concrete with 27 feet of water, 362 feet of hard-wood piling, with 18 feet of water, and 1,157 feet of lesser depth for small craft. (*Colonial Office, Annual Series*, 505.)

RUSSIA—GERMANY.

With reference to the notice on p. 225 of the "Board of Trade Journal" of 3rd August, 1905, respecting the opening of through communication between the Russian and German railway systems at Herby (near Czenstochowa), H.M. Consul-General at Warsaw (Mr. A. Murray) reports that communication has now been opened up between the Russian system at Kalisz and the German system at Skalmierzice, distant about four miles one from the other.

Through Communication between Russian and German Railway Systems.

So far as Warsaw is concerned, through communication will only be improved to Breslau and that part of Germany, but from Lodz the journey to Berlin as well will be considerably shortened and simplified. A development of industry may also be looked for at Kalisz and in the frontier district, which are now put in direct communication with Germany.

Shipping and Transport.

The exchange of goods between Germany and Russia proper will also be facilitated, as the Kalisz line is of the broad-gauge in use throughout Russia.

Passengers to Germany will change trains at Skalmierzice, and those coming to Russia at Kalisz, the intermediate distance being laid with both broad and narrow gauges.

The Customs examination of goods imported to Russia will take place at Szczypiorno, about half way between Skalmierzice and Kalisz.

PORTUGUESE EAST AFRICA.

Port and Railway Administration at Lourenço Marques.

H.M. Consul-General at Lourenço Marques (Major J. G. Baldwin) has forwarded a translation of a Decree governing the administration of the port and railways in the district of Lourenço Marques. The Decree refers to the disadvantages of the system hitherto in force, under which several departments of the public service have been concerned in the working of the port. A controlling authority has now been created which will not only have the superior direction of the commercial exploitation of the port and the work of construction and maintenance, but also the superintendence of railway matters. The two services will remain independent of each other in regard to actual working, but will be under the control of the new "Conselho de Administração." The "Conselho" will have the Governor of the District as its President, and its members will include, besides representatives of the Port, Railway, Public Works and Customs Department, the President of the "Camara Municipal," the President of the Chamber of Commerce, the agent of the "Banco Ultramarino," and four local merchants.

SPAIN.

Bilbao Harbour Works.

The Commercial Attaché to H.M. Embassy at Madrid (Mr. S. P. Cockerell) has forwarded an exhaustive report (together with plans) on the harbour works at the mouth of the River Tolosa, 14 miles below Bilbao, comprising a breakwater 1,450 metres in length and a countermole 1,100 metres in length, and on their effect in the development of the trade of Bilbao. A contract has now been placed with a Spanish contractor, Señor Uribasterra, care of the Junta de Obras del Puerto, Bilbao, for the construction, on the west side of the outer harbour, of a wharf 640 metres in length by 180 metres wide, in a depth of from 8 to 9 metres at equinoctial low tide. The work is estimated to cost 200,000*l*. Contracts have already been placed with Spanish firms for 10,000 tons of Portland cement and for other of the materials.

Shipping and Transport.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY.

New Steamship Company for Dalmatian Coasting Service.

A report has been received from the Commercial Attaché to H.M. Embassy at Vienna (Mr. A. P. Bennett) relative to the formation of a new steamship company ("Dalmatia") for the Dalmatian coasting service, from which it appears that a Bill with this object has been laid before the Reichsrath, who will, it is anticipated, sanction it before the end of the present year.

The capital of the new Company is fixed at 341,666*l.*, of which 252,337*l.* is comprised of 42 steamers—nine Lloyd's—of 15,579 gross registered tons and 17,501 horse-power. In the course of the first three years of the Company's constitution, 19 of these steamers, with a gross tonnage of 8,312 tons, are to be disposed of and replaced by more modern vessels.

In the construction, equipment, and provisioning of the Company's ships preference is to be given to national industries.

The annual subvention to be paid to the Company by the Austrian Government is fixed at 62,500*l.*, and the contract is to remain in force for 20 years from 1st January, 1907.

Nationalisation of the Kaiser Ferdinands-Nordbahn.

Mr. Bennett also reports that legislative sanction has been given to the agreement signed between the Austrian Government and the Directors of the "Kaiser Ferdinands-Nordbahn," by virtue of which this private railway passed into the hands of the State, with antecedent effect from 1st January, 1906. The existence of this private system between the two State systems was thought likely to give rise to serious inconvenience.

BULGARIA.

New Steamship Services to Germany, Russia, and Egypt.

The "Revue Commerciale du Levant" states that the Bulgarian Railways Administration are about to conclude an arrangement with the "Deutsche Levante Linie" Company (which is already in receipt of an annual subsidy of 5,000*l.* from the Bulgarian Government) for the establishment of a direct service between Varna, Bourgas, and Hamburg, with a view to stimulating the exportation of Bulgarian produce to Germany.

The "Politique Coloniale" states that the Black Sea Steamship Company (a Russian firm) have arranged with the Bulgarian Railways Administration for a regular service, with through rates, between Russian ports and Bulgarian towns, and have, moreover, agreed to extend the service to Egypt, which will thus be in direct communication with Bulgaria by means of Russian boats.

Shipping and Transport.

OTTOMAN EMPIRE.

Surveys of Rivers Tigris and Euphrates.

The Acting British Consul-General at Baghdad reports that an investigation of the navigable capacity of the River Tigris between Baghdad and Mosul has been commenced, and will be followed by a similar investigation with regard to the Euphrates as far as Maskana. These surveys are being made, in accordance with an Imperial Iradé, by an inspector of the Saniye Department, in conjunction with a French engineer.

MOROCCO.

Ships' Manifests.

Among the provisions of the Algeciras Act of interest to commerce which will come into operation after its ratification, H.M. Consul at Tangier (Mr. H. E. White, C.M.G.), mentions the following in his recent report:—

Merchant vessels, whether coming from a foreign or Moorish port, must deposit within 24 hours of their arrival an exact copy of their manifest, which must contain the nature and origin of the cargo, as well as marks and numbers of the packages, &c. At the time of clearing goods, whether for export or import, a detailed statement must be filed, containing full particulars in regard to the goods, their weight, value, &c. Severe penalties are provided for breach of these rules or false declarations. (*Foreign Office, Annual Series*, 3,730.)

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Control of Atlantic Coast Lines.

H.M. Consul at Galveston (Mr. H. D. Nugent) reports that the Mallory Line of steamships running between New York and Galveston has, through its purchase by Mr. Charles W. Morse, come under the same control as the Clyde Line, sailing between New York, North and South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida ports, and the Metropolitan Steamship Company, trading to Boston. The entire coastwise traffic, with the exception of the Old Dominion Line of steamers and the Morgan Line of the Southern Pacific Railway, is thus under this one control.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA—PHILIPPINE ISLANDS.

Steamship Communication.

According to the report of H.M. Consul-General at Manila (Mr. W. J. Kenny) the North German Lloyd have started a line with three new steamers from Australia *viâ* German New Guinea and Manila to China and Japan, and the Messageries Maritimes have made arrangements for their intermediate boats from Japan to call every other month on their return voyage to Marseilles to take cargo and passengers. (*Foreign Office, Annual Series*, 3,731.)

MINERALS, METALS AND MACHINERY.

RUSSIA.

Donetz Coal Production.

With reference to the notice on p. 368 of the "Board of Trade Journal" of 22nd November, the British Commercial Agent in Russia (Mr. H. Cooke) reports, on the authority of the official "Commercial and Industrial Gazette" of St. Petersburg, that the despatch of coal from the Donetz Basin or South Russian collieries during the first nine months of the current year amounted to 463,200,000 pouds of coal and anthracite. The probable despatch during the last three months of the year will be not less than 150,000,000 pouds, forming a total for the year of 613,200,000 pouds, against 484,300,000 last year. By the beginning of the next year, therefore, adds the "Gazette," the home industrial market will be well supplied, and, with the resumption of normal conditions in the Baku liquid fuel region, perhaps even over-supplied, a turn of affairs not very favourable for the South Russian coal industry.

Pouds = 36 lbs.; 1,000,000 pouds = 16,121 tons.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY.

Discovery of Bauxite in the Island of Lesina (Dalmatia).

The Acting British Consul at Trieste (Mr. N. Salvari) reports that five bauxite deposits have lately been discovered in the Island of Lesina (Dalmatia). The deposits are situated at a short distance from the coast, and are stated to be of considerable extent.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Bauxite Production.

According to the annual report of the Geological Survey the production of **bauxite** in the United States in 1905 amounted to 48,129 tons (of 2,240 lbs.), valued at 240,292 dols., as compared with 47,661 tons, valued at 235,704 dols. in 1904. The production of bauxite in Alabama and Georgia seems to be on the decline, while the output in Arkansas is increasing rapidly.

Aluminium Production in 1905.

The production of **aluminium** in the United States has increased more than tenfold in as many years. Two reasons explain this phenomenal growth—economic production, which has initiated lower prices, and increased consumption, especially in the electrical industry.

The following table gives the output in 1895 and in each of the last three years.—

Year.	Quantity.
	Pounds.
1895	920,000
1903	7,500,000
1904	8,600,000
1905	11,347,000

YARNS AND TEXTILES.

BRITISH INDIA.

Cotton Spinning and Weaving Returns for August.

The Board of Trade have received a copy of the monthly return issued by the Indian Government, showing the quantity of cotton yarn spun, and of cotton woven goods produced, in each Province in British India, and in the Native States, during August of each of the years 1904, 1905, and 1906, and in the five months ended August of those years.

The following is a summarised statement extracted from the above return, giving particulars for the five months ended August, 1904, 1905, and 1906:—

		Five Months ended August.		
		1904.	1905.	1906.
BRITISH INDIA, BERAR, AND NATIVE STATES.				
Cotton yarn spun	Lbs.	234,376,534	292,662,085	285,605,367
Grey and bleached piece goods	Lbs.	49,495,395	56,182,735	56,527.104
	Yards	211,419,758	236,532,053	252,533,523
Coloured piece goods ...	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.	*10,206.730
	Yards	8,925,444	11,337,374	*41,665,840
Grey and coloured goods (other than piece goods)	Lbs.			*586,069
Hosiery	,,	253,759	178,311	252,894
Miscellaneous goods ...	,,	850,627	787,132	158,890

* "Grey and coloured goods (other than piece goods)" produced in the *native States*, are included with "coloured piece goods"—the quantities of which not being separately stated in the original returns.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Cotton Storage in Texas.

According to a recent United States Consular report, officials of the Farmers' Union in Texas state that they will soon have ready 200 cotton warehouses in that State in which it is intended to store the cotton output of Texas for a steady and level supply to the buyers. It is estimated that it will be possible to store, indefinitely if necessary, 750,000 bales of cotton. The association declares that a reasonable advance in money will be made to any farmer who is unable to carry his crop without financial assistance. The warehouses are to be bonded, and thus prepared for the loaning feature.

AGRICULTURE.

UNITED KINGDOM.

Corn Prices.

The prices of British corn per quarter of 8 bushels, as received from the inspectors and officers of Excise in the week ended the 1st December, 1906, were as follows:—

Wheat	...	...	...	...	26*s.*	1*d.*
Barley	...	...	...	...	24*s.*	1*d.*
Oats	...	...	...	...	17*s.*	2*d.*

For further particulars see p. 486.

Imports of Agricultural Produce.

A statement is published on p. 487, showing the quantities of the various descriptions of agricultural produce imported into the United Kingdom during the week ended the 1st December, with comparative figures for the corresponding week in 1905.

SOUTHERN NIGERIA (LAGOS).

Cotton Cultivation.

The Governor of Southern Nigeria (Lagos) says in his recent report to the Colonial Office:—"The output of cotton is at present only limited by the capabilities of the Cotton Association's ginneries. I begin to feel great confidence that cotton-growing will prove the chief industry in Nigeria outside the palm oil zone."

It appears from the report referred to that there was in 1905 an increase of about 42 per cent. in the value of the cotton exported. The Commercial Intelligence Officer remarks in this connexion:—"After recently visiting one of the principal native cotton-growing centres in Yorubaland (Oke Ho and Iganna), lying about 120 miles from Lagos town and three days' journey from rail, where all the cotton gathered is absorbed locally for the manufacture of yarn and in turn country cloths, I feel much more sanguine with regard to the future of the raw cotton export trade. . . . .

"I believe His Excellency has hit upon the true solution of the difficulty of working these remoter townships by the rough hand gins, similar to those used in India, and if only we can induce the natives to use these gins and bring the lint cotton down to some buying-station on rail, I think it highly probable that cotton-growing for export will here become a large and permanent industry, and one which will not be killed by the return to normal prices in Europe. For reasons fully explained in my previous report on this subject, I think the cheap wooden 'roller' gins have, notwithstanding the comparatively small output, ever so much greater chance of popularity with our up-country natives than the costlier American or British-made 'saw' machines." (*Colonial Reports, Annual Series*, 507.)

Agriculture.

BRITISH WEST INDIES—ST. LUCIA.

Cocoa Cultivation.

According to the report by the Administrator of St. Lucia, recently issued by the Colonial Office, the quantity of cocoa exported in 1905 was larger than in any previous year, being 9,468 bags of 200 lbs., valued at 38,041*l.*, as against 6,679 bags, valued at 29,008*l.*, in 1904. There is evidence, he says, of a moderate but steady increase of the area under cultivation in recent years, and it is the most hopeful sign for the future prosperity of the island which he has observed.

It is estimated that in 1905 the average return of cocoa per acre cultivated was 307 lbs., the comparatively low yield being due to neglect of cultivation on the part of the uneducated peasant proprietors, who as a class do not obtain more than 224 lbs. per acre, while the more intelligent planter may get an average of 560 lbs. to 672 lbs., and certain favoured cocoa spots 1,344 lbs.

A Committee of the Agricultural Society is preparing a handbook of information for small proprietors, in the hope of attracting colonists to the island, and a scheme of roads to give access to the land is now awaiting the report of a General Committee, acquainted with the different districts, appointed to advise on the question.

Rubber.

As regards rubber, the report says that nine Central American rubber trees (*Castilloa elastica*) of various sizes, growing at the station, were tapped in August, September, and November; also a number growing in the cacao fields at the Errard estate. Samples of the prepared rubber were submitted to experts in London for valuation and report. The best samples in biscuit form were valued at 5*s.* per lb., a second quality not sufficiently dried at 4*s.* 6*d.*, and the scrap was classed as "good black" and valued at 3*s.* 9*d.* per lb. Mr. Moore, the agricultural superintendent who conducted the operations, states that as the result of the experiments it is estimated that well-grown trees of about twelve years of age will yield 2 lbs. of cured rubber per tree. (*Colonial Office, Annual Series*, No. 505.)

RUSSIA (CENTRAL ASIA).

Cotton Crop Prospects.

The British Commercial Agent in Russia (Mr. H. Cooke) reports on the authority of the "Commercial and Industrial Gazette" (St. Petersburg) that details, from each region, of the Russian (Central Asia) cotton crop show that this year's yield will be very favourable both with respect to quantity and quality. Among the unfavourable factors influencing the yield are hot winds and insufficiency of water, but the region thus affected this year has

not been large. In Fergan, some localities suffered from hot winds, *e.g.*, the Assakinski district, where the cotton either did not arrive at maturity or turned out weedy. In high localities in the region of Gorchakovo the fibre has also suffered. In the Sir-Darin territory the cotton yield is a good one, and in view of the increase of the area under seed the total yield this year should considerably exceed that of last year. The dearness of labour in this territory is a very great impediment to the development of cotton growing. In the territory of Samarkand the yield is lower and the quality of the fibre worse than last year. In the Trans-Caspian Territory, thanks to abundant water, the yield is better. In Bokhara the crop is a late one, due to the late arrival of water. In the Caucasus (government of Erivan) the fibre has suffered from abundance of vegetable parasites on the plants.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA—PHILIPPINE ISLANDS.

Cultivation of Maguey.

The Acting British Vice-Consul at Cebu (Mr. Kingcome) reports that during the year 1905 planters gave considerable study to maguey, and as, according to their estimates, it promises better results in many districts than either tobacco or sugar, quite a large acreage has been planted with it. Should the experiment prove as anticipated, Mr. Kingcome considers this should develop into an important industry. (*Foreign Office, Annual Series*, 3,731.)

MEXICO.

Guayule Rubber.

With reference to the notices on p. 325 of the "Board of Trade Journal" of 15th November, p. 230 of 1st November, and previous notices, relating to "guayule" rubber, the following extract from the report on the trade of Mexico for 1905-6 by H.M. Minister at Mexico City may be of interest:—"The product of the guayule tree figures for the first time among the exports. It is a form of cactus extract used in considerable quantities for mixture with rubber. An export tax was imposed on it in the Budget Bill, 1906-07, and it is expected that with the enormous demand for rubber throughout the world the production of guayule will have considerable development." (*Foreign Office, Annual Series*, 3,733.)

MISCELLANEOUS.

UNITED KINGDOM.

Cotton Statistics.

The number of bales of cotton imported into the United Kingdom during the week ended the 29th November, 1906, was 171,498, and the number imported during the forty-eight weeks ended the 29th November was 3,422,417 (including 5,458 bales British West Indian and 7,614 bales British West African). As regards exports, the figures are, for the week ended the 29th November, 1906, 8,047 bales, and for the forty-eight weeks, 316,107.

For further details see p. 486.

BRITISH INDIA.

Foreign Sea-borne Trade of Bengal.

The following figures, showing the value of the foreign sea-borne trade of the Province of Bengal, are taken from the report for 1905-6 of the Collector of Customs at Calcutta :—

	1904–5.	1905–6.
Imports—	Rs.	Rs.
Merchandise	41,29,14,693	45,51,61,376
Specie	12,39,81,177	8,36,78,403
Total	53,68,95,870	54,88,39,779
Exports—		
Indian merchandise	64,13,71,461	70,44,26,705
Foreign „ re-exported	27,70,825	20,56,564
Specie	17,70,682	30,32,162
Total	64,59,12,968	70,95,15,431

AUSTRALIAN COMMONWEALTH.

Provisional Regulations under the Trade Marks Act, 1905.

With reference to the notice on p. 177 of the "Board of Trade Journal" of 26th July last, respecting the "Trade Marks Act, 1905," which came into operation on and from the 2nd July, attention is now called to the provisional regulations made under the Act, and which also came into force on the 2nd July. A copy of these regulations has been received by the Board of Trade from their Correspondent for the Commonwealth (Mr. H. A. P. Wollaston, Comptroller-General of Customs, Melbourne). These may be seen on application at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, E.C.

Miscellaneous.

SOUTHERN NIGERIA (LAGOS).

Trade in 1905.

The following figures, showing the imports and exports, excluding specie, of Lagos (which now forms part of the Colony of Southern Nigeria) are extracted from the report recently issued by the Colonial Office :—

	1904.	1905.
	£	£
Imports, commercial and Government ...	867,986	1,036,788
Exports ,, ,, ...	1,062,576	963,354

Of the increase in imports, 62,836*l.* was due to Government importations, chiefly railway material, and 105,966*l.* to general importations. The total was the largest on record, and this, in a year when there was a breakdown in the yield of palm oil and kernels, shows that the country was in a prosperous condition.

Hides Export.

In recording an increase in the export of hides from 13,080 lbs. value 674*l.* in 1904, to 41,501 lbs. value 1,530*l.* in 1905, the report remarks that as communication with Northern Nigeria is facilitated, it is expected to divert the greater proportion of this trade, which at present is said to go across to Tripoli. (*Colonial Reports, Annual Series*, 507.)

RUSSIA.

Herring Trade.

The British Commercial Agent in Russia (Mr. H. Cooke) reports that, according to the official "Commercial and Industrial Gazette" (St. Petersburg), the demand for herrings in Russia this year exceeds the supply. Contracts have already been concluded abroad for the catch of 1907. The import to St. Petersburg, which has ceased owing to the close of navigation, has given an excess of 78,200 barrels over the import of 1905, due to the imposition of Customs duties on foreign herrings imported *viâ* Archangel. The import from Astrakhan and Tsaritsin (of Russian fish) has been unfavourably influenced by the want of railway trucks, while at Odessa the trade has been unfavourably affected by the increase of the duty on fish imported into Roumania.

Establishment of Consulates in Manchuria.

The "Journal de St. Pétersbourg" states that the Russian Council of Ministers has submitted a scheme to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the immediate establishment of a Consulate-General at Mukden and consulates at Dalny and Kvan-tchen-dsi, and for the establishment from 1st January of a Consulate-General at Kharbin and consulates at Guirine and Tsi-tsi-Kar.

Miscellaneous.

FRANCE.

Glove Trade.

In response to enquiries regarding the manufacture of gloves in France, the United States Consul at Grenoble names Paris, Chaumont, Millau, and Grenoble as the cities and towns of France which are largely engaged in the manufacture of gloves. The last named is the largest glove centre in France, and for ladies' kid gloves, perhaps the largest in the world. Apart from commission agents for large glove houses in the United Kingdom and the United States there are about 80 independent glove manufacturers.

The number of men and women engaged in the industry in and around Grenoble is estimated at 25,000. The wages paid for making gloves vary from 4*s.* 2*d.* to 5*s.* for men and from 1*s.* 8*d.* to 2*s.* 6*d.* to women per day. For cutting, men are paid according to their skill, from 4*s.* 2*d.* to 8*s.* 4*d.* per day.

The total output of gloves from Grenoble alone was placed at 900,000 dozen pairs in 1898. In 1902 it had declined to 800,000. This decline continued until July, 1905, when a phenomenal increase began, which still continues, and will doubtless make the total for 1906 nearly 1,000,000 dozen pairs.

With the recent increase in demand for gloves, especially for long gloves, the prices on the part of manufacturers and retail dealers have been considerably advanced, while the rulings for kid and lamb skins by the merchants in skins are 50 per cent. higher than in former years.

FRANCE—NEW CALEDONIA.

Census of New Caledonia, Loyalty Islands, and Island of Pines.

H.M. Consul at Noumea (Mr. A. G. Brophy) has forwarded particulars relative to this year's Census of New Caledonia, Loyalty Islands, and the Island of Pines. The general result was as follows:—

—	1906.	1901.	1887.
White inhabitants	22,177	23.499	16,558
Coloured immigrants	3,336	3,148	1,825
Indigenous Canague population	27,833	27,768	41,874
Totals	53,346	54,415	60,257

Between 1901 and 1906 the white population decreased by 1,322, mainly due to the dying out of the convict element. The free whites increased by 1,500, notwithstanding a reduction in the number of officials.

Miscellaneous.

PORTUGAL.

Project of Law to prohibit Foreign Boats from fishing in Portuguese Territorial Waters.

The "Dia-io do Governo" of 21st November contains copy of a project of law to prohibit foreign boats from fishing in the territorial waters of Portugal, Madeira and the Azores.

The "Diario" may be seen at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, E.C.

OTTOMAN EMPIRE.

Opium Trade of Smyrna.

H.M. Consul-General at Smyrna (Mr. H. A. Cumberbatch, C.M.G.) has forwarded a translation of an article published in the Journal of the French Chamber of Commerce at Smyrna on the Opium industry. From this it appears that opium is still of importance in the trade of Smyrna, the average annual yield of recent years being reckoned at 7,000 baskets each of 75 kilogs., valued, at the average rate of 22 francs per kilog., at 11,500,000 francs (460,000*l.*).

Formerly two qualities of opium were sold, *i.e.* "selected" and "refused." Now it is sold "such as it is," and there is consequently great elasticity in the price, seeing that two "baskets" of opium from the same source sold "such as it is" may present, as to real value, great fluctuation in price on account of the unequal quality of the "loaves" they hold. Opium bought in this manner is packed by the exporting merchant in tin-lined boxes, containing usually four layers of "loaves."

Opium is a very delicate plant, and the crop is a most difficult one to estimate. It is only safe when finally put into the baskets. In July, 1906, prices were as follows, per kilog. delivered c.i.f. European port:—

	Francs.
Adette, "usual quality"	21·25
Carahissar, "tel quel"	21·75
,, "selected"	22·75
Yerli, "tel quel"	23·50
,, "selected"	25·75

Formerly China and Holland took close on 1,500 cases out of the then annual crop of about 4,500 cases. Now the United States of America regulate the price according to the importance of their purchases. Next come the United Kingdom, Germany, France, Italy, Austria, Spain, and Russia in order of importance.

Miscellaneous.

MOROCCO.

Extension of Export Trade in Cattle.

H.M. Consul at Tangier (Mr. H. E. White, C.M.G.), in his recent report, remarks on the increasing trade of Morocco in cattle, 149,920*l.* worth of which were shipped in 1905 from Tangier (the only port in Morocco from which their exportation to foreign countries is allowed), besides 91,972*l.* worth which entered Algeria across the land frontier. There should, he says, be a considerable development of the cattle trade in 1907, when the General Act of the Algeciras Conference will come into operation, as the ratifications have to be exchanged before 31st December next. At present each Power may only export 6,000 head of oxen, which must be shipped at Tangier. Under Article 68 of the Algeciras Act the number of cattle which may be shipped by each Power is raised to 10,000, and permission is granted for their shipment from any port, thus avoiding the expense and risks of the land journey from the southern districts to Tangier. (*Foreign Office, Annual Series*, 3,730.)

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Boston Fishery Combination.

The British Commercial Agent in the United States (Mr. E. Seymour Bell) reports that, according to the New York "Times," the majority of the fish-dealers of Boston have merged into one concern, to be known as the National Fisheries Company. The company will be incorporated under the laws of Maine, with a capital of 5,000,000 dols. (1,000,000*l.*). The object of the corporation is to fix the standard prices for fish, and to do away with the present system of selling by auction. It is said that all branches of the fish business hitherto conducted by Gloucester firms will be undertaken by the new company.

URUGUAY.

Proposed Measures for Developing Denatured Alcohol Industry.

H.M. Legation at Montevideo report that a message has been sent to the Uruguayan Chambers by the Executive recommending the adoption of measures for developing and regulating the production of denatured alcohol. The idea is to relieve the new product from all internal tax, and to admit duty-free all lighting or heating apparatus as well as machines (including motors) exclusively using denatured alcohol.

STATISTICAL TABLES.

Cotton Returns.

Return of the **Number** of **Bales** of **Cotton Imported** and **Exported** at the **Various Ports** of the **United Kingdom** during the Week and 48 Weeks ended 29th November, 1906 :—

	Week ended 29th Nov., 1906.	48 Weeks ended 29th Nov., 1906.	Week ended 29th Nov., 1906.	48 Weeks ended 29th Nov., 1906.
	Imports. (Bales.)		Exports. (Bales.)	
	No.	No.	No.	No.
American	140,827	2,576,045	5,796	180,620
Brazilian	3,486	205,406	192	17,395
East Indian	1,386	128,236	83	41,744
Egyptian	25,776	416,249	1,946	68,977
Miscellaneous	23*	96,481†	30	7,371
Total	171,498	3,422,417	8,047	316,107

* British West Indian.

† Including 5,458 bales British West Indian, and 7,614 bales of British West African.

Corn Prices.

Statement showing the **Average Price** of **British Corn,** per quarter of 8 bushels, Imperial Measure,* as received from the Inspectors and Officers of Excise in the week ended 1st December, 1906, and corresponding weeks of the seven previous years pursuant to the Corn Returns Act, 1882.

	Average Price.					
	Wheat.		Barley.		Oats.	
	s.	*d.*	*s.*	*d.*	*s.*	*d.*
Week ended 1st December, 1906	26	1	24	1	17	2
Corresponding week in—						
1899	25	7	25	10	16	5
1900	26	10	25	11	17	4
1901	27	1	26	7	19	0
1902	25	1	24	4	17	0
1903	26	8	23	9	15	9
1904	30	4	24	6	16	2
1905	28	8	24	6	17	11

* Section 8 of the Corn Returns Act, 1882, provides that where returns of purchases of British Corn are made to the local inspector of Corn Returns in any other measure than the Imperial bushel or by weight or by a weighed measure that officer shall convert such returns into the Imperial bushel, and in the case of weight or weighed measure the conversion is to be made at the rate of sixty Imperial pounds for every bushel of wheat, fifty Imperial pounds for every bushel of barley, and thirty-nine Imperial pounds for every bushel of oats.

Imports of Agricultural Produce into the United Kingdom.

Account showing the Quantities of certain kinds of **Agricultural Produce** imported into the **United Kingdom** in the week ended 1st December, 1906, together with the quantities imported in the corresponding week of the previous year.

		Week ended 1st Dec., 1906.	*Corresponding Week in 1905.*
Animals, living :—			
Oxen, bulls, cows, and calves	Number.	11,054	*13,336*
Sheep and lambs	"	3,470	*1,623*
Swine	"	—	—
Horses	"	193	*351*
Fresh Meat :—			
Beef	Cwts.	85,074	*67,105*
Mutton	"	18,525	*33,540*
Pork	"	11,710	*14,737*
Salted or preserved meat :—			
Bacon	Cwts.	85,954	*101,631*
Beef	"	3,289	*4,067*
Hams	"	17,655	*27,366*
Pork	"	3,004	*1,223*
Meat, unenumerated, salted or fresh	"	8,515	*9,292*
Meat, preserved otherwise than by salting	"	5,975	*26 660*
Dairy produce and substitutes :—			
Butter	Cwts.	61,116	*67,826*
Margarine	"	19,421	*22,616*
Cheese	"	55,374	*58,448*
Milk, fresh, in cans or drums	"	—	—
" cream	"	71	*105*
" condensed	"	15 274	*20,818*
" preserved, other kinds	"	150	*132*
Eggs	Grt. Hundr.	367,336	*414,687*
Poultry	Value £	10,223	*9,678*
Game	"	2.347	*5,305*
Rabbits, dead (not tinned)	Cwts.	7,543	*23,767*
Lard	"	38,609	*41,510*
Corn, grain, meal, and flour :—			
Wheat	Cwts.	1,615,800	*1,813,000*
Wheat meal and flour	"	226,400	*334,500*
Barley	"	447,800	*653,800*
Oats	"	100,000	*204,000*
Peas	"	33,890	*41,880*
Beans	"	10,420	*1.540*
Maize or Indian corn	"	1,096,100	*658,300*
Fruit, raw :—			
Apples	Cwts.	160,280	*159,410*
Apricots and peaches	"	—	—
Bananas	Bunches.	140,583	*81,445*
Cherries	Cwts.	—	—
Currants	"	—	—
Gooseberries	"	—	—
Grapes	"	5,934	*4 547*
Lemons	"	17,848	*27.054*
Oranges	"	168,101	*225,700*
Pears	"	5,070	*4,389*
Plums	"	—	*25*
Strawberries	"	—	—
Unenumerated	"	852	*5.781*
Hay	Tons.	2,371	*1,577*
Straw	"	1,216	*1,240*
Moss Litter	"	1,870	*1,236*
Hops	Cwts.	13,028	*8.722*
Locust Beans	"	22,000	*6,413*
Vegetables, raw :—			
Onions	Bushels.	247,680	*145.620*
Potatoes	Cwts.	35,725	*16,397*
Tomatoes	"	12,145	*14,464*
Unenumerated	Value £	5,502	*4,209*
Vegetables, dried	Cwts.	9,889	*12.615*
Preserved by canning	"	4,454	*3.691*

GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS.

TRADE RETURNS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

The Monthly Accounts relating to the Trade and Navigation of the United Kingdom for the month of October, 1906, have been published. The accounts, which are issued on the 7th or 8th of each month, may be purchased at a cost, in the present instance, of 1*s.* 3*d.* per copy, either directly or through any bookseller, from Messrs. Wyman & Sons, Fetter Lane, E.C., and 32, Abingdon Street, S.W.; or Messrs. Oliver & Boyd, Edinburgh; or Edward Ponsonby, 116, Grafton Street, Dublin.

Attention is further called to the fact that the "Annual Statement of the Trade of the United Kingdom with Foreign Countries and British Possessions" for the year 1905, in two volumes, may be purchased at a cost of 7*s.* 8*d.* for the first, and 4*s.* 2*d.* for the second volume, at any of the addresses enumerated above. This publication, which contains much more detailed and exhaustive information than can be given in the Monthly Accounts, gives Abstract Tables for the years 1901–1905, and detailed statements of imports and exports of each article (from and to each country) in the first volume, and in the second volume details as to customs revenue, transhipments, and articles in bond, and particulars of the trade of the United Kingdom with each foreign country.

THE BOARD OF TRADE LABOUR GAZETTE.

The "Board of Trade Labour Gazette"* is published by the Board of Trade on the 16th of each month. The following are among the more important articles which appear in the November issue:—State of the Labour Market in October; Relief of the Unemployed; Mines and Quarries—Numbers Employed, Accidents, and Output; Report of the Local Government Board, 1905-1906; Subvention of Unemployed Benefit Funds in France; Report of Irish Poor Law Commission.

FOREIGN OFFICE REPORT.

The following is a *résumé* of some of the more interesting subjects dealt with in a Consular Report of the Annual Series issued since the last number of the "Board of Trade Journal."

ANNUAL SERIES.

No. 3,734. Trade of Switzerland, 1905.

Analysis of import and export trade, with notes on important increases and decreases.

Tables of values of importations of principal manufactured articles, showing share of United Kingdom.

Comparison of the number of commercial travellers visiting Switzerland from various countries.

Hints on increasing British trade, appointment of agents, &c. Swiss trade with India, Australia and Canada.

* It can be purchased through any newsagent, price 1*d.*

Government Publications.

COLONIAL OFFICE REPORTS.

Reports from the following British Colonies have been issued by the Colonial Office since the last number of the "Board of Trade Journal," viz.:—

No. 507. Southern Nigeria (Lagos).
„ 508. Somaliland Protectorate.
„ 510. St. Vincent.

OTHER GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS.

Statistical Abstract for the Principal and other Foreign Countries in each year from 1894 *to* 1903-04. [*Cd.* 3,136.] *Price* 1*s.* 6*d.*

This is the thirty-second issue of this Abstract, which is prepared annually in the Commercial, Labour and Statistical Department of the Board of Trade, and contains statements in regard to the trade, navigation, agriculture, railways, telegraph and telephone systems, finance, mineral production, &c., of the principal foreign countries for a series of years, the information in each case being carried down to the latest year—in the majority of cases 1904—for which data have been received in the Board of Trade from the statistical departments of the various Foreign Governments. New tables appear in the present issue dealing with the import and export trade of Brazil, and with the production and consumption of cotton in the United States of America.

Post Office Agreement between the Post Office of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and the Post Office of Nicaragua for the direct exchange of parcels by Parcel Post. [*Cd.* 3,227.] *Price* 2½*d.*

Report on the Sea and Inland Fisheries of Ireland for 1905. *Part I.—General Report.* [*Cd.* 3,194.] *Price* 1*s.* 4*d.*

According to this report, the total quantity of sea fish (other than shell fish) captured in 1905 was 998,206 cwts., valued at 360,577*l.* In 1904 the corresponding figures were 951,836 cwts. and 344,154*l.* Including shell fish, the total value for 1905 was 414,364*l.*, and for 1904, 393,630*l.*

There were 6,190 vessels engaged in the sea fisheries in 1905, as compared with 6,221 in 1904, whilst 23,778 men and 510 boys were employed, being 123 men less and 48 boys more than in the previous year.

THE COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE BRANCH OF THE BOARD OF TRADE.

The Intelligence Branch of the Commercial Department of the Board of Trade (No. 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C.) is intended to be a centre at which information on all subjects of commercial interest shall be collected and focussed in a form convenient for reference, and at which, so far as the interests of British trade permit, replies shall be given to enquiries by traders on commercial matters.

On application being made to it either personally or by letter, the Branch supplies, so far as is possible, information with regard to the following subjects, viz.: Commercial Statistics; Matters relating to Foreign and Colonial Tariffs and Customs Regulations; Lists of firms abroad engaged in particular lines of business in different localities; Foreign and Colonial Contracts open to Tender. Sources of Supply, Prices, &c., of Trade Products; Forms of Certificates of Origin; Regulations concerning Commercial Travellers, &c., &c. There is a Sample Room at the offices of the Branch, where, in addition to samples illustrative of reports of H.M. Consuls or of the Correspondents or Special Commissioners of the Board of Trade, specimens of special interest that may be received from the Imperial Institute, India, or the Colonies, &c., are exhibited from time to time.

The Governments of India, Canada, Cape of Good Hope, and Queensland, also the Governments of the Transvaal and Orange River Colony, have established, in proximity to the Commercial Intelligence Branch, at 73, Basinghall Street, special offices for dealing with trade matters (see next page).

The "Board of Trade Journal" is the principal medium through which intelligence collected by the Commercial Intelligence Branch, and intended for general information, is conveyed to the public. The "Journal" is issued weekly at the price of 1*d*. All applications respecting subscription, or the purchase of single copies, should be addressed in London to Messrs. Wyman & Sons, Ltd., Fetter Lane, E.C., and 32, Abingdon Street, S.W.; in Edinburgh to Messrs. Oliver & Boyd; and in Dublin to Edward Ponsonby, 116, Grafton Street. Copies may also be obtained from Messrs. G. Street & Co., Ltd., 30, Cornhill, E.C.

SPECIAL INDIAN AND COLONIAL TRADE ENQUIRY OFFICES.

India.—The India Trade Enquiry Office at 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C., has been established for the purpose of supplying the general public with all available information as to the commercial products, manufactures and trades of British India.

The office is under the superintendence of an India Office official, who is in daily attendance to answer personal or written enquiries.

The current publications of the Government of India dealing with Indian Trade statistics, tariff charges, railways, economic products, &c., are kept in the office, and can be consulted free: the various Indian Directories are also filed.

Canada.—The Canadian Government have secured premises at 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C., where an office has been opened under the designation of "Canadian Government City Trade Branch," for the convenience of the commercial community.

In due course it is intended to equip and maintain a display room, illustrating the products, resources and manufactures of the Dominion. In the meantime, a Canadian representative attends daily to deal with enquiries and applications in connection with Canadian import and export trade, and to supply information about Canadian matters generally. Personal appointments can be arranged when desired.

Cape of Good Hope.—The Government of the Cape of Good Hope have opened offices at 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C., for the purpose of a Commercial Agency for that Colony, under the direction of the Agent-General.

The Commercial Agent in charge of these offices deals with, and supplies free, information on trade subjects connected with the Colony, such as commercial products, industries, trade, tariff regulations, commercial statistics, railway rates, prospects for emigration, &c., &c.

Queensland.—For the convenience of the commercial community in the City of London, the Agent-General for Queensland has opened a branch office at 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C., where a representative attends daily to give information to enquirers regarding trade, mining, and all other matters in connection with Queensland.

A collection of articles representative of the pastoral, agricultural, and mining industries of Queensland are on view, and information regarding these industries can be obtained at the Office, as above.

Transvaal and Orange River Colony.—A Trade Enquiry Office has been opened at 73, Basinghall Street, E.C., by the Governments of the Transvaal and Orange River Colony, on the lines of the agency established at the same address by the Government of Cape Colony, but under the general direction of the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade.

The Superintendent in charge of the Office deals with, and supplies free, information in regard to the products and resources of the two Colonies, the opportunities they present to the settler, their railway facilities, the regulations of all kinds in force in them affecting trade, &c., &c.

IMPERIAL INSTITUTE.

The Imperial Institute at South Kensington was transferred by Act of Parliament to the control of the Board of Trade on the 1st January, 1903. The work formerly carried on by the Commercial Intelligence Office of the Institute is now conducted by the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade.

The Imperial Institute is chiefly occupied with the systematic investigation and illustration of the principal resources of India and the Colonies. It includes:—

1. The Galleries, containing collections of economic products, &c., illustrative of the natural and commercial resources of British Possessions. These are open free to the public daily (except on Sundays) from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., in Summer, and from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Winter. Special arrangements may be made for the visits of schools and other educational institutions. Information concerning India and the Colonies, their products, industries, prospects for emigration, &c., may be obtained on verbal application at the Central stand in the Galleries, or applications may be addressed in writing to the Director of the Imperial Institute, South Kensington, S.W. Publications furnishing information relating to the commerce, agriculture, mining and other industries of India and the Colonies, as well as those relating to emigration, may also be obtained on application at the Central stand. From time to time samples and specimens of raw and manufactured products will be shown in the sample room attached to the offices of the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade at 73, Basinghall Street, E.C.

2. The Scientific and Technical Department with extensive laboratories specially equipped for the purpose of investigating problems connected with tropical agriculture and development. In this Department new or little known natural products from India and the Colonies, and commercial products from new sources, received through the Government of the countries concerned, are examined with a view to their valuation and utilisation. The expert staff of the Department is also engaged in the collection of information from all sources on these and similar subjects.

3. The Library and Reading Rooms, containing a large collection of Indian and Colonial works of reference, which are regularly supplied with the principal official publications of India and the Colonies, and with many of the principal newspapers, periodicals and maps of the United Kingdom, India, and the Colonies.

4. Conference and Meeting Rooms which are available under certain conditions for the purpose of meetings, lectures, &c., on subjects of importance to India and the Colonies.

5. The "Bulletin of the Imperial Institute." This publication, which is now issued quarterly, includes reports on investigations conducted at the Imperial Institute, and also special articles relating to recent developments in tropical agriculture and in the utilisation of raw materials. The "Bulletin" may be obtained at the Imperial Institute, South Kensington, or from Messrs. Eyre and Spottiswoode, East Harding Street, Fleet Street, E.C., price one shilling per number.